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WEDNESDAY
MARCH 17, 1954

With Dillon's concurrence, I telephoned around the circuit this morning to get representatives from our missions in each of the countries except France and Germany to come to Paris and be briefed on the present situation regarding EDC. They will then take back to their posts the not-yet finalized text of the American declaration on assurances.

Mr. Thierfelder was sent down to see me by Blankenhorn to advise me that the Saar conversations were going extremely badly. We dispatched a telegram on this subject advocating that both sides be brought, if possible, to adhere closely to the Maaters report.

Mr. Gibbs of Time came to see me. He is engaged in writing an article on Mr. Bidault, whose photograph will appear upon the cover of the magazine. He finds Bidault a complex character. I agree. This article will probably come out shortly after the opening of the Geneva Conference.

I went to see Kit Steel this afternoon. His papers have not yet been submitted by Alphand to Bidault. Poor Alphand has not been able to see his Chief. This is quite extraordinary.

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REVIEWED BY ezc 7-1-81

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Francis McIntyre called on me. He has been in India for Caltex. He feels that one of the great problems of the Middle East is the failure of the rulers, especially in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, to use their enormous oil revenues to improve the living conditions of their subjects.

We sent off a shoal of telegrams today and received a variety of reports, none of them optimistic, about what the French Government intended or did not intend to do concerning EDC.

E. and I dined tonight at the Baumgartners. Wilfrid and I had a long talk after dinner and I told him the reasons why it seemed to me that the French Government within the not distant future must resolve the EDC question one way or the other. I found him in agreement with me although he has strong and conscientious reservations about the possible activities of a reamed Germany. He does not like the prospect of the human vacuum which would be left if something mortal happened to the Chancellor, nor do I.

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